under an Administrator for more than five years has been committed which is against the spirit of the Wakf Act; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary steps for constitution of the Punjab Wakf Board as per the provisions of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Consequent upon the reorganization of the erstwhile State of Punjab in November, 1966, the Punjab Wakf Board became an inter-State body corporate having jurisdiction in the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Consequently the Board is being administered by the Central Government. In 1981, following allegations of mismanagement and corruption, the Board was superseded and an Administrator was appointed. Since then the Board has recovered from a position of deficit to generating substantial income including surplus. The constitution of the Punjab Wakf Board depends, inter alia, on the satisfactory resolution of the legal position regarding its future set up.

Representation regarding S.C. Status to certain castes of Tamil Nadu origin in Maharashtra

2472. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain castes such as Adidravidar, Pallar Parayar etc., which are in the list of scheduled castes in Tamil Nadu have not been recognized as scheduled castes in Maharashtra even though a good number of people belonging to these castes of Tamil Nadu origin have been living in Mumbai and other places for generations;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Tamil Nadu Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA

GANDHI): (a) to (c) The lists of Scheduled Castes notified for States/UTs, as per provision under Article 341 of the Constitution, are State/UT specific. As such, persons belonging to a particular State, who have migrated to another State are not entitled to be recognized as Scheduled Castes in the latter State. Any proposal for modification in the list of Scheduled Castes for a Particular State is processed as per approved modalities in consultation with the concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. No specific proposal as indicated has been received from the Government of Maharashtra on this subject.

Atrocities against women and weaker sections

†2473. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of atrocities against women and weaker sections of the society have increased in the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to equip these classes with arms; and

(c) whether Government would consider to give them reservation in police forces to empower these classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) During the year 1998 and 1999 total number of cases of atrocities against women were 1,31,475 and 1,31,332 respectively *i.e.* a decrease of 0.1%. Similarly cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes registered are 25,638 and 25,093 respectively during 1998 & 1999 *i.e.* a decrease of 2.1%. Cases of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes registered are 4276 and 4450 respectively during these two years *i.e.* an increase of 4.1%.

(b) A provision has been made under the Rule 3 (v) of the

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.